

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 09057 201736Z

46

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03

SP-02 L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-10

SAJ-01 OES-02 EB-03 OMB-01 OFA-01 DLOS-03 /064 W

----- 095653

P R 201600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1413

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9057

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: COMMENTS BY BITSIOS

REF ATHENS 9021

1. LAST NIGHT DURING A PRIVATE, GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS, I ASKED IF HE COULD TELL ME ANY MORE ABOUT THE REPORTED PREVIOUS-DAY'S TURKISH NOTE ON THE AEGEAN ISSUE (REFTEL). BITSIOS THEN BRIEFED ME ON THE CONTENTS OF THE NOTE AND THE PRELIMINARY GOG REACTION TO IT ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT TURKISH SECRETARY GENERAL ELEKDAG MADE SOME DISQUIETING ORAL REMARKS TO GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMODOPOULOS WHEN HE PRESENTED THE NOTE TO THE LATTER IN ANKARA NOVEMBER 18. ELEKDAG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INASMUCH AS THE GOG WAS ALREADY EXPLORING FOR OIL NEAR THE ISLAND OF THASSOS (A GREEK ISLAND JUST OFF THE NORTHERN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 09057 201736Z

COAST OF MAINLAND GREECE) AND QTE IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL

WATERS UNQTE THE GOT NOW HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO UNDERTAKE COMPARABLE EXPLORATIONS. COSMODOPOULOS REPORTEDLY TOLD ELEKDAG THAT TURKEY HAD NO MORE REASON TO ASSERT CLAIMS BECAUSE OF GREEK EXPLORATIONS IN AND AROUND THE ISLAND OF THASSOS THAN IT WOULD IN THE CASE OF GREEK EXPLORATIONS IN AND AROUND THE ISLAND OF CORFU ON THE OTHER SIDE OF GREECE. HOWEVER, BITSIOS SAID THAT GOG WAS ONCE AGAIN BECOMING APPREHENSIVE THAT THE TURKS MIGHT UNDERTAKE UNAUTHORIZED AND UNAGREED EXPLORATIONS IN DISPUTED WATERS IN THE AEGEAN THAT COULD QUICKLY ESCALATE INTO A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BITSIOS ALSO SAID THAT THE TURKISH NOTE ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE VERY CAREFULLY STUDIED--ALTHOUGH HE SAW NOTHING NEW IN IT--AND THAT A REPLY WOULD BE MADE IN DUE COURSE.

2. I ASKED BITSIOS WHERE THE BILATERAL GREEK-TURKISH AIRSPACE NEGOTIATIONS STOOD AND HE SAID THESE WERE AT A STANDSTILL. HE SAID THE KEY NEGOTIATORS WERE IN NEW YORK AT THE UNGA AND THAT THEY HAD HAD SOME INFORMAL CONTACTS THERE CONCERNING THE MATTER. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE TURKISH SIDE SEEMED OPTIMISTIC THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE CONCLUDED FAIRLY PROMPTLY ONCE THE UNGA DEBATE ON CYPRUS WAS OUT OF THE WAY. HE SAID HE HOPED THIS WAS TRUE ALSO BUT THAT HE WAS LESS SANGUINE BECAUSE HE FEARED THE UNDERLYING TURKISH STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE OF TRYING TO SECURE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL KINDS IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE AEGEAN MIGHT CONTINUE TO PREVENT FINAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

3. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE FOREGOING SUBJECTS AND OVERALL GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL WHEN THEY ARE BOTH IN PARIS NEXT WEEK AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING. BITSIOS SAID THE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 27-28 AND THAT AS OF NOW HE PLANNED TO DEPART ATHENS ON THE 26TH AND MAKE A STOP FOR PERSONAL REASONS IN GENEVA OVER THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 29-30 BEFORE RETURNING TO ATHENS. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT CAGLAYANGIL WAS BEING SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT ABOUT ATTENDING THE PARIS MEETING, SAYING HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND IF CERTAIN ITEMS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 09057 201736Z

WERE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OR WERE NOT TREATED IN A WAY ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOT. IN ANY CASE, BITSIOS UNDERSTOOD THAT CAGLAYANGIL WOULD BE IN PARIS ONLY 24 HOURS. BITSIOS INDICATED THAT HE HAS MADE PERIODIC OVERTURES TO CAGLAYANGIL TO TRY AND HAVE A FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ABOUT GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS, BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET ANY REALLY WORTHWHILE AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED WITH CAGLAYANGIL. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN

HOPING THAT CAGLAYANGIL WOULD TAKE SOME INITIATIVE FOR A PRIVATE MEETING WHILE THEY WERE BOTH IN PARIS BUT INSTEAD THE ONLY GOT INITIATIVES IN RECENT DAYS HAD BEEN OF THE USUAL ASSERTIVE AND UNCOMPROMISING VARIETY. EVEN SO, BITSIOS SAID, HE HIMSELF WAS GOING TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PARIS TO GET TOGETHER PRIVATELY WITH CAGLAYANGIL AND SEE IF HE COULDN'T HAVE A MEETING OF THE MINDS WITH HIM ON SOME OF THESE PENDING QUESTIONS. KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS09057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750404-1106
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751126/aaaaawsm.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 ATHENS 9021
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: COMMENTS BY BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006